

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful examination of this case. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant remarks.

The Applicant agrees with the Office Action Summary as set out in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

In sections 1, 2 and 3 on pages 2 – 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4 and 7 – 18 as unpatentable over Johannson (US 4,298,173), Bailey (US 3,579,381) and Perini (GB 2,105,688 A). In section 4 on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 6 as unpatentable over Johannson, Bailey and Perini, and further in view of Milton (GB 2333207 A). In sections 5 and 6 on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has said that claims 2 – 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that claims 1, 4 and 7 – 18 are unpatentable over Johannson, Bailey, and Perini, and that claims 5 – 6 are unpatentable over Johannson, Bailey, and Perini, and further in view of Milton. However, the Applicant would be satisfied with claim 2 and the Examiner

has kindly indicated in Sections 5 and 6 of the Office Action that claim 2 would be allowable. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 have been combined together. Claim 3 is allowable because the Examiner has also kindly indicated in sections 5 and 6 of the Office Action that claim 3 would be allowable.

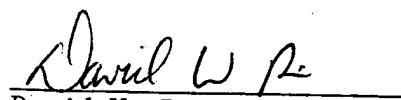
The Applicant relies for the patentability of claims 4 – 18 on the fact that these claims include all of the features of the new claim 1, and the new claim 1 is believed to be allowable for the reasons specified above.

The prior art of record has been carefully considered and it is believed not to affect the allowability of the amended claim 1, nor the above submissions.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or one of his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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